GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:148
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
HEART SURGERY
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poor patients suffering from heart problems are not considered for heart surgery free of cost in the Government hospitals and a heavy amount is being charged from them;

(b) if so, whether any effective steps are being taken by the Government to ensure heart surgery to the poor free of cost;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 148 FOR 28.11.2001.

No Sir. Financial Assistance is provided to patients living Below Poverty Line under the National Illness Assistance Fund, who are suffering from major life threatening diseases including cardiac problems to receive medical treatment at any of the super Speciality Government hospitals/ Institutes or other Government hospitals. Under the Scheme, the State Governments/ UT Administrations have also been asked to set up Illness Assistance funds in their respective States/ U.T.s. Grants-in-aid is being released to each of these States/U.T.s (with legislature) where such funds are set up. The grant-in-aid to the States/U.T.s is provided to the extent of 50% of the contributions made by the States/U.T.s to the State fund/society subject to a maximum of Rs. 5 crores with larger number and percentage of population Below Poverty Line viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal and Rs. 2 crores to other States/U.T.s.

The State/U.T. level funds could also receive contributions/donations from donors. The Illness Assistance Fund at the State/UT level would release financial assistance to patients living in their respective States/UT upto Rs.1.5 lakhs in an individual case and forward all such cases to NIAF, where the quantum of financial assistance is likely to exceed Rs.1.5 lakhs.

The following States/ U.T.s (with legislature) have set up Illness Assistance Fund :- Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Kerala, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Goa, Gujarat Sikkim, Bihar, NCT of Delhi and Pondicherry.

Advance(s) also have been placed from Central Fund with Medical Superintendents of AIIMS, New Delhi, PGIMER, Chandigarh an other Central Government hospitals such as Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medica College and Smt. S.K. Hospital, New Delhi and JIPMER, Pondicherry to enable them to sanction immediate financial assistance upt Rs.50,000/- in each deserving cases reported for treatment in their hospitals/institutions. NIMHANS, Bangalore and CNCI, Calcutta Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow and Gandhi Memorial and Associated Hospitals (KGMC) Lucknow, CIP Ranchi have also been included in the list of such hospitals. The advance(s) are being replenished as and when reports of its utilization are received from the respective hospitals/institutes.

Adhoc assistance is also being released from Health Minister`s discretionary grant for treatment purposes.